

Pronunciation – p and t: Transcript

Context

Hola y Buenos días. One of the great things about learning Spanish is that there are really so many similarities between the way English and Spanish sounds are made. In this brief lesson, we'll take a look at the letters **p** and **t**.

Information

1. Both the **p** and **t** in Spanish are similar to their English pronunciations. They do have a slightly softer sound, however, especially when they appear at the beginning of a word.
2. The pronunciation of the **p** is similar what you hear in the English word “spill.” Compare that sound to the same letter in the word “pork.” Repeat those two words several times to yourself. Can you feel the difference in the way your lips are positioned? “Spill” pushed the lips out a bit further and softens the sound.
3. Let's practice the Spanish **p** with these words:
 - a. paciente
 - b. pastilla
 - c. pies
 - d. pulmones
 - e. piernas
 - f. porque
4. The **t** is also a bit softer and is pronounced more like what you hear in the English word “still.” Compare this to the same letter in “talk.” Repeat those two words several times to yourself. Can you feel the difference in the way your tongue is positioned? “Still” requires you to push your tongue forward to the front of your mouth. For the the Spanish **t**, you need to place your tongue against the back of your upper teeth.
5. Let's practice the Spanish **t** with these words:
 - a. tengo
 - b. tos
 - c. necesito
 - d. tomar
 - e. tango

Review

So that's it. Both the **p** and **t** are softer in Spanish than in English. For the **p**, you push your lips out a bit further to soften the sound, while the **t** requires you to place your tongue against the back of your upper teeth. . *Bueno, eso es todo. Adiós.*